

Joint Master's Program in Humanitarian Action and Inclusive Management of Public and One Health Challenges

University of Thessaly and Teachers College, Columbia University

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<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tqiJnCCYQS-6hL1SttovFq>

KICK-OFF MEETING AGENDA



Thursday June 25, 2026



Aigli Zappeiou, Zappeio Hall, Athens

09:30–10:00 | Arrival, registration, welcome coffee

10:00–10:05 | Opening visual moment

“Why HERO-HEALTH, Why Now?”

10:05–10:10 | Welcome and agenda setting

Master of Ceremonies (MC): Paul Skotidas

10:10–11:00 | Opening addresses

10:10 – 10:15 | Welcome by Prof. Charalambos Billinis
Rector, University of Thessaly; Scientific Coordinator of HERO-HEALTH

“From Thessaly to the world: universities at the front line of crisis readiness.”

10:15 – 10:22 | Welcome by Prof. Chrysi Laspidou
Vice Rector of Innovation, Internationalization, Collaborations and Digital Governance, University of Thessaly

“Internationalization with purpose: innovation, collaboration, and digital learning for public good.”

10:22 – 10:30 | Address by Ms. Sofia Zacharaki
Minister of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports, Hellenic Republic

“Greek higher education as a global partner in innovation, resilience, and public service”

10:30 – 10:36 | Address by Mr. Adonis Georgiadis
Minister of Health, Hellenic Republic

“Public Health Resilience and the Future of Health Systems in an Age of Complex Crises”

10:36 – 10:42 | Address by Mr. Konstantinos Katsafados
Deputy Minister, Ministry of Climate Crisis and Civil Protection, Hellenic Republic
“Preparedness, resilience, and the human factor in civil protection”

10:42 – 10:48 | Address by Prof. Periklis Mitkas
President, Hellenic Authority for Higher Education
“Quality, excellence, and international joint degrees in the new era of Greek higher education”

10:48 – 10:55 | Address by Prof. Catherine Mary Embree
Vice President for Planning and Strategy, Chief of Staff to the President, and Secretary of the College, Teachers College, Columbia University
“A partnership for resilience, and evidence-based humanitarian practice.”

10:55–11:00 | Address by Prof. Emmanuel Pikoulis
Director, MSc “Global Health – Disaster Medicine” | Director, Research Institute of Humanitarian Medicine and Response, NKUA | Jean Monnet Chair in Humanitarian Medicine and Response in Action & Peacebuilding Health Diplomacy
“Humanitarian Medicine in Greece”

11:00–11:30 | Coffee break and curated VR preview

Dr. Nikolaos Achilleopoulos and Ms. Olga Chatzifoti, Gruppo Maggioli
A “VR gallery preview.”

11:30–12:30 | Panel 1 - “Educating the New Humanitarian Professional: One Health, Public Health, and Crisis Leadership”

Moderator: Paul Skotidas

Panelists:

- Prof. **Lamprini Athanasiou**, *Professor of General Medicine, Department of Veterinary Medicine, University of Thessaly*
- Prof. **Ioannis Pantazopoulos**, *Professor of Emergency Medicine, Department of Medicine, University of Thessaly*
- Prof. **Dimosthenis Makris**, *Professor in Critical Care Medicine, Department of Medicine, University of Thessaly*
- Prof. **Dimitrios Bogdanos**, *Professor of Medicine and Autoimmune Diseases, Department of Medicine, University of Thessaly*
- Prof. **Emmanuel Pikoulis**, *Professor of General Surgery, Department of Medicine, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens*
- Prof. **Maria Malliarou**, *Professor of Occupational Health Nursing, Department of Nursing, University of Thessaly*



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- Prof. Ioannis Poulis, *Professor of Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy – Bioethics, Department of Physiotherapy, University of Thessaly*

12:30–13:15 | Panel 2 - “Climate Justice, Disaster Preparedness, and Data: From Risk Mapping to Action for protecting the vulnerable communities”

Moderator: Prof. Chrysi Laspidou

Panelists:

- **Dr. Alex de Sherbinin**, Director, Center for Integrated Earth System Information (CIESIN), Columbia University
- **Dr. Thomas Chandler**, Managing Director, National Center for Disaster Preparedness (NCDP), Columbia University
- **Prof. Helen Verdeli**, Chair, Department of Counseling and Clinical Psychology, Teachers College Columbia University, HERO-HEALTH Principal Investigator at TC
- **Dr. Ioannis Dimitrios Kamperos**, Operational Officer - ATGS / Hellenic Fire Brigade
- **His Eminence Metropolitan of Nea Ionia, Philadelphia, Herakleio and Chalkidona Gabriel**

13:15 – 13:20 | Closing remarks and official photo

Closing by: Prof. Charalambos Billinis and Prof. Chrysi Laspidou

13:20–14:45 | Seated Lunch

14:45–16:30 | Optional Working Meetings between UTH and TC teams

